(c) whether a temporary helipad was made in Midnapore for the visit; and

(d) if so, the 'official' reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) The journey, performed had been in official capacity.

(c) Temporary helipad at Midnapore was made/arranged by the Railway authorities.

(d) The journey was performed on the directions of the Prime Minister, to take stock of the law and order situation.

Acquisition of Sukhoi Jets

2744. SHRI V. P. DURAISAMY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is acquiring Sukhoi-Su-30 MKI two-Seat, multi-purpose fighter, for the Indian Air Force;

(b) if so, the details and its features thereof;

(c) what is the cost involved; and

(d) whether this new acquisition will shelve AJT?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Su-30 MKI aircraft is an advanced multi-role, combat aircraft, fitted with modern avionics, and capable of superior maneuverability.

(d) No, Sir.